

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-25 stand allowed. Claims 7, 19, and 26-32 have been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter (1-6, 8-18, and 20-25):

Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-25 stand allowed. Applicant has cancelled claims 7, 19, and 26-32. Accordingly, the present application should be in condition for immediate allowance.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) (Claims 33, 34):

Applicant has cancelled the claims that are subject to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection in an effort to expedite allowance of the present application. In view of the cancellation of these claims, the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection is moot. Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejection or any of the contentions made by the Examiner with respect to the rejection. Applicant may pursue one or more of the cancelled claims or subject matter of one or more of the cancelled claims in a future continuing application.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

6/1/04

By: _____



Stephen C. Beuerle
Reg. No. 38,380

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
530 B Street, Suite 2100
San Diego, CA 92101-4469
Tel: (619) 238-1900